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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/828,978	04/21/2004	Xiaozhou Wang	JP920030138US1	5356
25259	7590	12/05/2006	EXAMINER	
IBM CORPORATION 3039 CORNWALLIS RD. DEPT. T81 / B503, PO BOX 12195 REASEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27709			HONEYCUTT, KRISTINA B	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2178		

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/828,978	WANG ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Kristina B. Honeycutt	2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9/19/06.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4,8-11 and 14 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4,8-11 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/31/06
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to amendment filed September 19, 2006.

This action is made **Final**.

2. Claims 1-4, 8-11, 14 remain pending in the case. Claims 5-7, 12-13, 15 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 8 and 14 are independent claims.

3. The rejections of Claims 5, 6 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kusuda (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0016872; publication date August 23, 2001; filed November 30, 2000) have been withdrawn as necessitated by the amendment.

4. The rejections of Claims 7, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kusuda in view of Edecker et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0188678; publication date December 12, 2002; filed June 5, 2001) have been withdrawn as necessitated by the amendment.

Information Disclosure Statement

5. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on July 31, 2006 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement has been considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-4, 8-11 and 14 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kusuda (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0016872; publication date August 23, 2001; filed November 30, 2000).

Regarding independent claim 1, Kusuda discloses a server suitable for use in a collaboration system employing a communication network, said server comprising:

- a group session control unit for inviting clients to join a virtual shopping session, for creating a group session by integrating a plurality of individual sessions and for passing a command to an application execution unit (Figure 1, 2; p.1, para. 4, 5; p.5, para. 53, 55; p.6, para. 62, 63; p.7, para. 68; p.10, para. 107 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, a session manager 130 includes a session managing section 131 that assigns session IDs to a plurality of users performing collaboration (integrating a plurality of individual sessions) and then transmits the session ID for issuing a connection to the client application 220 in

the information processing terminal 200 of the client computer (passing a command to an application execution unit). Collaborations are performed on a customer counseling system's webpage, which is a virtual shopping session since there are clients (customers) interacting with agents (the business) who are providing a service to the clients); and

- a page navigation control unit for providing a web page common to each of the individual sessions (Figure 1, 14; p.1, para. 4; p.7, para. 65, 68; p.8, para. 75; p.10, para. 107; p.11, para. 119 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, a web page for performing the collaboration is displayed to each information processing terminal 200 and is provided by the WWW server 300 via the information processing support server 100).

Regarding dependent claim 2, Kusuda discloses the server according to claim 1, further comprising:

- a synchronization control unit for notifying each of individual session destinations of a shared status of the web page (Figures 1, 4, 5, 6; p.1, para. 4; p.5, para. 55; p.6, para. 57; p.7, para. 65, 67; p.9, para. 92, 93; p.10, para. 99, 107; p.11, para. 119 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, a URL list generator 123 generates a URL list containing the updated or modified webpages so that the users in the session sharing the webpage can view the modified webpage); and
- a mutual communication control unit allowing a plurality of the individual session destinations to exchange messages (Figures 1, 4, 5, 6, 13; p.1, para. 4; p.7,

para. 65; p.9, para. 92, 93; p.10, para. 99; p.11, para. 113, 119 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, the client application 220 displays WWW contents that contain messages, such as questions, received from a plurality of users).

Regarding dependent claim 3, Kusuda discloses the server according to claim 1, further comprising initiative switching means for switching ownership of initiative of web page operation (Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; p.1, para. 4; p.7, para. 68, 69; p.9, para. 84, 85 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, a customer can make changes to a webpage which is displayed to an agent or an agent can make changes that are displayed to the customer. Furthermore, a customer can log-in to the information processing support server 100 and access a webpage to make changes or ask questions and log-out. An agent can also log-in and view changes and questions and respond by adding content to the pages. The log-in procedures are the means for switching ownership).

Regarding dependent claim 4, Kusuda discloses the server according to claim 1, wherein the page navigation control unit includes a page sharing processing unit for creating data by compiling the web page and an identification value corresponding to the data in response to display of a new web page and for storing the data and the identification value in association with each other (Figures 1, 8; p.1, para. 4; p.5, para. 53; p.6, para. 57; p.9, para. 92, 93; p.10, para. 99 – as demonstrated in the figures and

cited text, the URL attached-data control table 162 stores a session ID, a user's log-on ID, date and time, URL and other information when a user modifies or adds questions to a webpage and the URLs are provided in a list for selection. When a URL is selected, the webpage is compiled and displayed to the user or agent).

Regarding claims 8, 9, 10 and 11, the claims reflect the computer program product for performing the operations of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively and are rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding independent claim 14, Kusuda discloses a collaboration system for allowing client devices to collaborate through a network in a virtual shopping session, the system comprising:

- a plurality of the client devices connected to the network (Figure 1; p.5, para. 53 – as demonstrated in the figure and cited text, a plurality of information processing terminals 200 are connected to the TCP/IP network 210);
- a server apparatus for receiving requests from the client devices, responding to the client devices, and providing a collaboration environment common to the plurality of client devices (Figure 1; p.5, para. 53, 55 – as demonstrated in the figure and cited text, information processing terminals 200 request and receive webpages from the WWW server 300 via the information processing support server 100 and collaboration is provided through the Web server 120 in the information processing support server 100),

- wherein the server apparatus includes means for inviting clients to participate in a virtual shopping session, for providing a group session formed by integrating communication sessions among the plurality of client devices, and means for synchronizing the client devices in the collaboration environment (Figure 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 14; p.1, para. 4, 5; p.5, para. 53, 55; p.6, para. 57, 62, 63; p.7, para. 65, 67, 68; p.9, para. 92, 93; p.10, para. 99, 107; p.11, para. 119 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, a session manager 130 includes a session managing section 131 that assigns session IDs to a plurality of users performing collaboration (integrating a plurality of individual sessions) and then transmits the session ID for issuing a connection to the client application 220 in the information processing terminal 200 of the client computer (passing a command to an application execution unit). A web page for performing the collaboration is displayed to each information processing terminal 200 and is provided by the WWW server 300 via the information processing support server 100 and a URL list generator 123 generates a URL list containing the updated or modified webpages so that the synchronized users in the session sharing the webpage can view the modified webpage. Collaborations are performed on a customer counseling system's webpage, which is a virtual shopping session since there are clients (customers) interacting with agents (the business) who are providing a service to the clients); and
- further wherein each of the client device includes means for synchronizing according to a web page commonly displayed among the plurality of client

devices (Figure 1, 14; p.1, para. 4; p.7, para. 65, 68; p.8, para. 75; p.10, para. 107; p.11, para. 119 – as demonstrated in the figures and cited text, a webpage common to each information processing terminal 200 is provided by the WWW server 300 via the information processing support server 100 and means for synchronizing are disclosed since all users are capable of sharing and viewing information added to WWW contents).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicants' arguments filed September 19, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Regarding amended independent claims 1, 8 and 14, Applicants indicate that Kusuda does not teach or suggest inviting clients to participate in a virtual shopping session (p.5, para. 2). The Examiner disagrees because Kusuda teaches a group session control unit for inviting clients to join a virtual shopping session, for creating a group session by integrating a plurality of individual sessions and for passing a command to an application execution unit (Figure 1, 2; p.1, para. 4, 5; p.5, para. 53, 55; p.6, para. 62, 63; p.7, para. 68; p.10, para. 107). In other words, collaborations are performed on a customer counseling system's webpage. A customer counseling webpage is a virtual shopping session since there are clients (customers) interacting with agents (the business) who are providing a service to the clients.

Claims 2-4, 9-11 depend from independent claims 1 and 8. Therefore claims 2-4, 9-11 are rejected at least based on the rationale of the rejection above.

Conclusion

8. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kristina B. Honeycutt whose telephone number is 571-272-4123. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:00 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on 571-272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


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PRIMARY EXAMINER